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helped to guard Niagara, it has urged the preservation of the White Mountains and Southern Appalachian scenery, it has advanced the children's garden movement, vigorously protested against the billboard abuse, secured the enactment of laws for intelligent street planting of trees, urged the abatement of the smoke nuisance and kept a watchful eye in many quarters, making timely protest or giving needed advice as circumstances required and warranted. Its business is to promote the general welfare and this it does by perpetually minding the business of others. And yet to an extent its work is done quietly, frankly, and without display. Several hundred village improvement associations are affiliated with it and to these it sends informing pamphlets, illustrated lectures, and, gratuitously, advice. To the American Federation of Arts, whose scope is wider, embracing not only civic art, but the art of the gallery, the museum, the workshop and home, it gives hearty and generous co-operation. It distributes literature and, through a clipping sheet, news to its members and to the press, and it finds in the Women's Clubs throughout the country warm support and helpful co-workers. While zealous it is well directed and efficient.

#### RICHARD WATSON GILDER.

It is seldom that the death of an individual brings as deep a sense of loss to numbers of people as did that of Richard Watson Gilder, who but so lately was called from among us. Few possess in equal measure the gift of brotherly love, the breadth of interest and sympathy, the single-heartedness and loftiness of purpose which while exalting humbled and endeared. Not many have lived so useful a life or left so rich a heritage. Best known perhaps as a poet and the editor of *The Century*, Mr. Gilder was in truth a friend of art. Associated in close comradeship with these who have done much to uplift, through their productions, the standard of American art, he was continually in touch with and keenly alive to what progress was being made

and ever ready to aid the forward movement. In the betterment of public art typifying the uplift of public ideals, he was ever interested and active. Never was he too busy to give ear to that which concerned the advancement of art in any of its phases, nor to lend his aid when it promised to be of avail. And withal there was always a complete selflessness. When asked but a few months ago to permit the use of his name to strengthen a certain cause he replied that he believed its value was over-estimated, that it had been lent so often that it was almost worn out. Loyal to his friends, his ideals, his art, gentle and considerate, he was still capable of hot indignation against a meanness, a lack of integrity or a deliberate wrong, discriminating in his judgment, honest not only with others but with himself, and for this reason doubly serviceable. The place he leaves vacant will not be filled, but with the sense of bereavement is mingled a consciousness of the deathless quality of such an influence, the beauty and nobility of such a life.

#### NOTES

THE AMERICAN CIVIC ASSOCIATION CONVENTION The fifth annual convention of the American Civic Association which was held simultaneously with the fifteenth annual convention of the National Municipal League, on November 15th, 16th, 17th, and 18th, in Cincinnati, was marked by a spirit of optimistic determination to better existing conditions. Many interesting papers were read and addresses made which indicated progress made and the trend of endeavor. The entire day of November 16th was given over to a conference on city planning, on November 17th certain nuisances and their abatement were considered, and on the 18th thought was directed to the relation of art to everyday life. The session on the afternoon of the 16th was presided over by Mr. W. W. Hannan, of Detroit, the president of the National Association of Real Estate Exchanges, who, in an introductory address, declared the organi-

zation he represented to be in hearty sympathy with the American Civic Association and unqualifiedly pledged its support to the plan for the artistic development of Washington, "the city to which all eyes are turning as a model, and in which every American citizen must feel a personal pride." Speaking from the business standpoint, Mr. Hannan said that the real estate man more than all others must be interested in civic improvement. The subdivision that does not provide restrictions which will insure its preservation along lines of homelike beauty is no longer, he declared, profitable even though it be proposed for the residences of those of slender means. What used to be regarded as luxury is now demanded as necessity. While admitting that it is difficult to convince the man who is drawing a revenue from otherwise unproductive property that the billboard question had other than a merely esthetic side, Mr. Hannan asserted his belief in the possibility of regulating their use and stated that the National Association of Real Estate Exchanges has already adopted the recommendation that in the plotting of new subdivisions the erection of billboards shall be prohibited.

In reference to the influence of playgrounds and small parks on suburban development an interesting paper was contributed by Mr. William E. Harmon, of New York, who is also well known as a leader in real estate activity. Of most significance was the statement, supported by statistics, that as an investment the small park pays; increasing in sufficient proportion the value of adjacent property to more than compensate for the withdrawal of its area for public use. The possibilities of water fronts being rationally beautified was set forth in an illustrated address by Mr. Harold A. Caparn, of New York, who drew, it must be confessed, most of his examples of successful treatment from foreign cities and those of frightful neglect from cities in America. Mr. Henry Read, chairman of the Art Commission of the City and County of Denver, told of the influences exerted toward securing for

that city a much needed and desired civic center, as well as of other activities in the line of civic art which put Denver in the front ranks of progressive cities. Denver has at the present time the distinction of being the only city that supports a municipal theater and publishes a weekly municipal news sheet. City Forestry was well described by Mr. J. H. Prost, city forester of Chicago, who told of the immense work which is being carried on in tree planting and preservation in that far-seeing, energetic, mid-west city, chiefly through the enthusiasm of its citizens, and without municipal appropriation. In connection with the discussion of the billboard, smoke, and noise nuisances the subject of the safe and sane Fourth of July celebrations was considered.

Mrs. M. F. Johnston, who has been chiefly instrumental in the establishment of a High School art gallery at Richmond, Indiana, presided on the last day at the session devoted to art in its more intimate phases and told of the success of an exhibition which, during the past year, has made a circuit of some of the smaller cities and towns in the middle west, arousing enthusiasm for the establishment of permanent galleries. At this session Dr. John Quincy Adams spoke on the subject of Household Decoration; Mrs. Annetta E. McCrea gave an encouraging account of the effort made by railroads to improve appearances; Mrs. E. W. Pattison, chairman of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, outlined briefly but comprehensively what the women of the country are doing toward the upbuilding of appreciation of art and civic improvement; the work and aims of the American Federation of Arts were described by Miss Leila Mechlin, its assistant secretary, and the initial steps taken by Cincinnati toward securing a Municipal Art Commission were reported by Mr. W. W. Taylor, president of the Municipal Art Society and of the Rookwood Pottery. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year. President, J. Horace McFarland; Secretary, Richard B. Watrous, and treasurer, William B. Howland.